

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown in the complete set of claims in which claims 1-8 and 10-16 have been amended.

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the adhesive connection of sheets in the book-binding field by perforating the sheets along a ~~folded~~ folding edge, folding the perforated sheets, applying adhesive onto the ~~folded~~ folding edge, and assembling the sheets into a book block, wherein the perforating process is performed along the ~~folded~~ folding edge so that two interrupted perforation lines extending a small distance from each other and staggered longitudinally from each other are punched in the shape of a double slit line forming a widened folding edge, the punched spots of the two perforation lines are staggered in view of each other by the length of one perforating tooth in the longitudinal direction relative to each other along the folding edge resulting in the absence of gaps between the punched spots of the staggered two perforation lines along the folded edge, the sheets are folded between the perforation lines for building double sheets forming a front and a rear sided sheet, the punched spots results in alternating recesses along the folding line, which are used as adhesive receiving areas, the double sheets are arranged joining each other and are applied with an adhesive on surfaces associated to each other, produced by double perforations between the recesses of the one perforation line and recesses of the other perforation line, and the double sheets processed in this manner lying one above the other are pressed with the recesses of the subsequent double sheets into a book block.
2. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~folded~~ folding edge is produced by perforating cuts in the longitudinal direction, which perforation cuts extend in a meander type, the ~~folded~~ folding edge is formed by two perforation lines extending in a small distance from and parallel to each other, the perforation of the ~~folded~~ folding edge is cut in the longitudinal direction by the knife teeth, and ~~the~~ a respective transversal slot between the end of one tooth perforation cut of the first perforation line and the beginning of an associated second tooth perforation cut of the second perforation line is interrupted.
3. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein processing perforation of the folding ~~or sheet~~ edges is performed ~~according to~~ by a perforating device ~~and~~ which

is made up of two symmetrical positioned halves and which is carried out by means of linear or circular punching tools.

4. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein punching perforation lines ~~of a punching tool~~ are formed extending in a meander-type line.
5. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein punching perforation lines ~~of a punching tool~~ are formed extending in a dovetail- type line.
6. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the punching tools are formed so that the halves of the sheets subsequent to the punching step are still connected with each other by transversal ~~webs~~ slots, and that the two punched halves of the sheets subsequent to the slitting or punching step are folded together.
7. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein longitudinal slots of the perforation line ~~is formed by longitudinal and~~ are connected by transversal slots and wherein the transversal slots are discontinuous to form hinge points.
8. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~pockets~~ the perforation lines are punched or cut into the stack of sheets, which are to be combined into a book block, the punched sheets are staggered by one tooth pitch in an alternating manner, and the sheets are put together.
9. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 8, wherein the sheets put together in a book block are cut or punched equally, and subsequent thereto each second sheet is staggered in view of the first sheet by one half of a pitch.

10. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the recesses are provided with a transition region and further in which along the widened folding edge at the ~~transient positions~~ transient region of the recesses of the one sheet to the transition region of the recesses of the adjacent sheet ~~a virtual hinge line is formed~~ a virtual hinge line is formed.
11. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, in which the distance ~~of between~~ the two perforation lines ~~of the widened folding edge~~ is altered dependent on the thickness of paper and is adapted thereto.
12. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 10, in which the virtual hinge line is formed by hinge means in the center of ~~the transversal lines~~ slots, which connect the two meander-type lines extending in the longitudinal direction with each other.
13. (Currently Amended) A device for performing the process according to claim 1, comprising means for perforating and folding the sheets to be combined into a book block at the folding edge, and for applying adhesive material at the edges thereof, wherein two perforating knives or, alternatively, the two halves of a double perforating knife are variably connected back to back in a distance of one or several paper thicknesses with each other, the cutting edges are arranged in the direction of two parallel perforation lines, the two perforation knives or the two halves of a double perforation knife have perforation teeth which are parallel to each other by one perforation tooth, and staggered by the length of one perforating tooth in longitudinal direction relative to each other along the folding edge in absence of longitudinal gaps, and the perforation areas or the recesses produced when folding the sheets between the two perforation lines and corresponding with the individual perforation teeth form the adhesive applying areas.
14. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the perforation tool is a one-part knife in the form of a double slot perforation knife, the cutting edge of which has a meander-like path, the meander sections of the cutting edge extend in the longitudinal

direction of the perforation line result in recesses, which at the perforation line open alternately to the one and to the other side, form the adhesive areas, and ~~the~~ transversal slots of the perforation line, which restrict ~~the~~ two adjacent recesses in transversal direction, are formed by continuous or alternately interrupted cutting edges.

15. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the cutting edges of the perforation knife or alternatively the two halves of a double perforation knife extend in a meander-type path, whereby the cutting edges penetrating the sheet material result in meander-type separation lines, the longitudinally extending ~~perforations~~ cutting edges partly cut through the material and generate an interrupted cutting line each, and the transversely extending ~~perforations~~ cutting edges do not or not entirely cut through the material and at least leave a transversal spot in the form of a connection, whereby the hinges resulting therefrom in their entirety form ~~the~~ a virtual hinge line as a hinge axis.
16. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the longitudinal slots at both sides of the longitudinal axis are arranged in a continuous sequence, the longitudinal slots at both sides of the longitudinal axis are staggered in the longitudinal direction by the length of a knife tooth, and the recesses of the two parallel perforation lines in combination form a continuous, strip-like area across the entire length of the perforation lines with the width of ~~the~~ transversal ~~webs~~ slots
17. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the two cutting knives or alternatively the two halves of a double perforation knife connected back to back are adjustable in a transverse direction relative to each other in order to alter the width of the folding line.
18. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein two perforated sheets folded about the folding edge comprise a continuous bonding area in the longitudinal direction with the width of the alternating recesses.